

**ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to the sterilization of polymeric material by irradiation for use in a body of a mammal. We have surprisingly discovered that the sterilization of polymeric materials for use in a mammal by irradiation  
5 is improved by reducing the temperature at which the irradiation is carried out. One aspect of this invention relates to a sterilized polymeric material for use in a body of a mammal wherein said polymeric material is sterilized by irradiation at a reduced temperature

Another aspect of this invention relates to methods of sustained delivery  
10 of a therapeutically active agent to a mammal by using a polymeric material that has been sterilized at a reduced temperature by irradiation.